

NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE FOR RUSSIA ARE TO START AT ONCE

Armistice Signed On Saturday Provides For the Immediate Beginning of Discussion of Terms For Final Peace Pact

GERMANY YIELDS UPON POINT OF REMOVALS

Teutons Can Readily Grant Russian Demands on That Point As Forces on Fronts Are Already Largely Depleted

WASHINGTON, December 17—(Associated Press)—Negotiations for peace between Russia and Germany are to be started forthwith. Official announcement of the signing of the armistice was sent out from Berlin yesterday. It was signed on Saturday and will go into operation at noon today.

Truces which have been operative along various sections of the Russian front will be succeeded by an actual armistice this noon. Those truces were arranged division by division and each was separate and distinct from the others. The armistice is a general one. It was signed on Saturday, the official announcement said, at Brest and Litovsk and provides that negotiations for the actual peace shall begin immediately with the signing of the armistice which is to remain in effect until noon of Monday, January 14. Beyond these statements the German announcement did not go into the terms of the agreement.

BREACH ONCE NEAR

How near a temporary break in the negotiations for an armistice approached is told in despatches which were received from Petrograd last evening. Trotsky declared that the breach was imminent when the German general, Hoffman, insisted on the right of Germany to withdraw small units from the Russian fronts during the armistice. Against this the Russians held out and Trotsky says that the Russian contention finally prevailed and Hoffman yielded to an agreement that there shall be no transfers from the Baltic or Black Sea fronts except those that were actually commenced and in progress at the time of the signing of the armistice.

TROOPS REMOVED

Here the belief prevails that this means little to the Germans who had already moved or started the movement of such troops as they believed to be immediately needed on the Italian and Western fronts. This is indicated by the largely reinforced armies that are now engaged in the Teutonic operations on both of those fronts. It is thought that in the confidence of an armistice to obtain which Germany might have to make concessions the Russian fronts had been largely depleted of men and large guns.

In Entente diplomatic circles' disappointment was expressed although the signing of the armistice had been fully expected and was deemed an unavoidable misfortune to the Allies' cause.

DEMAND FOR FUR IN LONDON LIFTS PRICES

LONDON, December 17—(Associated Press)—Fur is in keen demand just at present and a marked increase in price resulted at the October sales. Chinese, Australian and Russian supplies were very scarce while American furs were not half sufficient to meet the demand. Prices ranged from 15 percent to 100 percent advance on previous sales. Sable, black mink and black fox skins reflected the advance most.

HOOVER REPLIES TO CLAUS SPRECKELS IN RINGING MESSAGE

Supply Seventy Percent Normal and Most of Balance Went To the French; Proud of It

WASHINGTON, December 17—(Associated Press)—Answering the assertions made by Claus Spreckels made before the senate committee which is investigating the sugar shortage that discrimination was shown by the food administration and otherwise attacking the food administration, its policies and methods, Herbert C. Hoover yesterday gave the following statement to the press:

"Anything which I have to say to Mr. Spreckels' statement will be said in due time to the senate committee."

"Spreckels is 'BORN'."

"Today it requires no proof from me to establish the fact that Claus Spreckels, a leading sugar refiner, is sure at the food administration and the sugar commissions and would like to see it and them destroyed."

"I realize that Mr. Spreckels' balance sheet will not look so good to him as it did last year for the refiners' prices for sugar have been regulated and furthermore his balance sheet would have looked much better to him this year if the price of last August had not been reduced and held fast in the face of a partial shortage that promised a fair opportunity for thirty cents a pound sugar and much increased profit to the refiner. Mr. Spreckels therefore has reason to feel badly."

"Finda Sincere Patriotic"

"There are other citizens some of whom now feel and others of whom will feel the same way and can, no doubt, entertain the public by directing assaults against the food administration as Mr. Spreckels has done. While many feel badly and more will feel badly, still the great majority of the men and women of our business community and of our farmers are sacrificing individual and personal profits daily to the necessities of the nation without complaining. Many are sacrificing more than their money, they are offering to the sacrifice their sons."

"Shortage Three Months"

"We have had two months of partial sugar shortage, October and November, and we shall also have December before relief from the new crop arrives."

"The American people have had five hundred thousand tons of sugar in those two months, and that is seventy percent of the normal supply in each month, October and November, and, if cars are obtainable, they will have seventy percent of the normal supply in December also. Owing to car shortage the sugar shortage has been most acute in the Northeast and about two hundred cars, loaded with sugar, are today blocked from that region."

"Twice French Ration"

"This seventy percent of the normal supply which the American people have enjoyed the use of is twice the French ration. In the meantime we have given to France a good part of the thirty percent which we have saved and we are proud of it. This supply so given to France was given deliberately and the American people were told of it at the time."

"We have also agreed to draw ten

EXPLOSIONS WRECK TWO GERMAN PLANTS

LONDON, December 17—(Associated Press)—Two great explosions, the effects of which Germany will feel in its war conduct are reported in despatches from Zurich received last night.

The Zeppelin works at Friederichshaven were wrecked by an explosion which did immense damage to the plant and the big aircraft in course of construction.

A second explosion occurred near Kiel where a bomb factory was completely demolished.

Loss of life was heavy in both explosions, the report said.

THREE IN GUARD HOUSE ARE BURNED TO DEATH

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania, December 17—(Associated Press)—Trapped in fire in the guard house where they were in confinement, three members of the aero corps met their death early last evening. The men were confined for the commission of minor offenses and it was impossible to release them so quickly did the flames consume the interior of the building.

MEXICO APPORTIONING CORN TO NEEDY PEOPLE

MEXICO CITY, December 17—(Associated Press)—The City Council of the Federal District has announced that the corn recently purchased from the United States, a part of which has just arrived will be sold to the community at the rate of two kilograms (4.40 pounds) a day for each person, so that speculators cannot get hold of any considerable amount. The corn will be sold under government supervision in special booths throughout the federal district.

General Gregorio Osuna, the municipal president, has announced that he will not allow any one to profit from the distribution of this corn as it is for the benefit of the people and will be sold at the net cost to the government.

AUTO IS WRECKED BUT NO ONE IS INJURED

A Studebaker roadster, No. 484, registered in the name of H. E. Adams, skidded at the sharp turn just beyond Waipahu yesterday afternoon and crashed into a ditch at one side of the road smashing the left rear wheel to splinters. No one was injured. A wrecking car was sent out by Schumacher's Garage and the damaged machine was brought to the city.

ASK IMPRISONMENT OF CZAR AND HIS FAMILY

PETROGRAD, December 17—(Associated Press)—Actual imprisonment for the deposed Czar and the members of his family is being urged by the soldiery. Several regiments yesterday passed resolutions asking that Nicholas and all the members of the Romanoff family be incarcerated in some fortress instead of being merely detained under guards as they have been since arrival in Tobolsk.

QUEBEC SLACKERS RIOT OVER DRAFT

SHERBROOKE, Quebec, November 29—A riotous crowd tonight broke up a meeting here at which Minister of Justice Doherty and Hon. C. C. Ballantyne attempted to speak on conscription.

The rioters were held back only by a fire hose at the stage door when they attempted to storm the stage where the speakers were.

The riot lasted more than three hours. The mob broke through the doors of the theater and were repelled by the citizens who had been occupying seats on the ground floor. There were at least twenty pitched battles. The entire front of the theater was smashed to splinters.

At the end of the meeting the chairman called on the peaceful people to remain inside.

TROOPS IN FRANCE TO HAVE TWO HOLIDAYS

AMERICAN FRONT, December 17—(Associated Press)—A proclamation by General Pershing read yesterday brought joy to the khaki clad boys of the American contingent. They are to have real holiday, not merely a half-year Christmas Day, but no drills and no work, a Christmas dinner that will be like those at home and gifts and other Christmas cheer.

The proclamation also gives the men a holiday with no drills and work on New Year's Day.

The orders cannot apply to the men on the actual fighting front.

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ENTENTE ASKED BY CHINA TO TAKE OVER RAILROADS

Bolshe-Viki Forces Seize Chinese Eastern Railway and Action Raises Alarm

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS ADD TO RISING FEAR

Consuls At Harbin Asked To Take United Action In Which China Will Acquiesce

PEKING, December 16—(Associated Press)—China is thoroughly aroused at the action of the Bolshe-Viki government or of forces dominated by the Russian radicals in taking over the Chinese Eastern Railway and fears for the result in the light of the present approach of Russia and Germany.

Announcement was made today that Bolshe-Viki forces had taken over this railway and grave fears were expressed. An immediate appeal was made to the diplomatic representatives of the Entente powers, it is announced.

Following the action of the Bolshe-Viki all of the consuls at Harbin were notified by the Chinese of this action and requested to take over from the Bolshe-Viki this railway and any other railways leading into China from the Russian zone of influence.

China is at a loss as to independent action by itself. It desires to have no clash with Russia and it was for this reason that the consular representatives of the allies were called upon. Concerted action is urged upon them in the light of the new conditions which have arisen from the signing of an armistice by Russia and Germany as was reported today from Berlin. Should a separate peace be perfected, China points out, it would be gravely endangered with this and perhaps other railways in the possession of pro-Germans.

Party of Seventeen Engineers Is Reported Missing

Members of Contingent Caught In Encircling Movement Believed To Have Been Captured Fighting Until Overcome

WASHINGTON, December 17—(Associated Press)—Seventeen enlisted men of the United States railroad engineers contingent have been missing from the Cambrai sector since November. This was officially reported from the Western front yesterday.

The missing men were a part of a body of railroad engineers who were caught in the attempted encircling movement of Prince Rupprecht. Throwing aside picks and shovels they picked up rifles and entered bravely into the fight. Caught between the enemy and the British fire they threw themselves prone and later managed, in most instances, to get to the British lines where they materially aided in the repulse of the enemy.

The seventeen missing are believed to have been captured, fighting bravely on until overpowered.

The conduct of this force has been warmly commended by both British and French army officials.

Lieutenant Boyle, of the medical corps, who has been attached to the British army, is officially reported to have been severely wounded in an engagement which occurred on December 7.

"Barefooted Bill," Once Noted Burglar, Is Dead

"Barefooted Bill" is dead. The one-time most successful burglar of Honolulu, whose activities caused the police fifteen and twenty years ago more uneasiness than those of any other crook in the Islands, and whose methods would have done credit to even a Paris crook, passed away yesterday when the Leahi began after a lingering illness. In real life he was William Hoopii, and for the past fourteen years he had led a most exemplary life, was a church member and became a respected member of the community. He led a quiet life since the days when he was a terror to police and property owners.

In 1900 "Barefooted Bill" came into prominence when he was arrested while endeavoring to crack the safe in L. B. Kerr's store on Queen Street, but he had hardly begun to work when he was handcuffed by C. F. Chillingworth, then deputy high sheriff. The police had previous information of the intentions of Bill and a companion, and lay in wait for them. True to his methods, Bill removed his shoes and stockings and let himself into the store through the skylight, just as he did at the store of B. E. Ehlers and also at Diamond & Company. A burglary at Levers & Cooke's store was also laid at his door.

At one time, during the 90's, he was sent to prison by Deputy Attorney General Charles F. Creighton. When the revolution of '95 was crushed Creighton was one of the political prisoners brought before a military court. He was sentenced to prison and on being taken to the jail, it was "Barefooted Bill," a trusty, who opened his cell for him and then locked him in.

Transport Crews May Be Part of Military Service

WASHINGTON, December 17—(Associated Press)—Bringing of the crews of all transports, all mine-layers and numbers of other craft into the military service will be recommended to congress in the report of Quartermaster General Sharpe which will be presented to congress today. His report goes strongly into the necessity of this to promote a greater degree of efficiency.

This report of the quartermaster general is not issued for this special purpose as it is his annual report and it is of great interest in that it is the first report which he has rendered to congress since the entry of the United States into the war. He deals at length with the undertakings which his department has successfully carried forward.

HOUSE WILL VOTE ON PROHIBITION

Today's Rollcall Expected To Show Two-Thirds of Representatives in Favor

WASHINGTON, December 17—(Associated Press)—Nationwide prohibition is expected to pass the house of representatives, where it is the first order of business today. The belief is expressed that it will easily have two-thirds in its favor on the roll call. Leaders last night said that the sentiment in the house was so strong they felt no doubt of the result. In the senate there is not so strong prohibition sentiment but it is believed the required two-thirds vote can also be secured there.

Prospects for the passage of the equal suffrage measure are not bright and it is believed that it will not be possible to get this amendment through congress at this session.

NAME NEW MANAGER FOR RAPID TRANSIT

Directors Meet and Select H. S. Johnson To Succeed C. G. Ballentyne, Resigned

H. Stuart Johnson will become manager of the Honolulu Rapid Transit and Land Company on January 1, succeeding C. G. Ballentyne who tendered his resignation a short time since to be effective on that date. Mr. Ballentyne leaves the company to go to Bingham where he will manage the Montana-Bingham Mining Company, the business and possibilities of which he investigated for Honolulu interests during a recent visit to Utah.

Ever since Mr. Ballentyne announced that he would resign the management of the rapid transit company there has been keen interest as to who would be named as his successor. This question was finally determined by the directors of the company at a meeting which was held at noon yesterday, after which the announcement was made.

Mr. Johnson has been connected with the Honolulu Rapid Transit and Land Company at various times since the organization of the company. His last term of connection with the company began about four years ago. He is a civil engineer by profession and has recently had charge, especially of the track rehabilitation which the company has planned and which is soon to be well underway.

GERMANY STARVING, DECLARES JAPANESE

SAN FRANCISCO, December 16—(Associated Press)—Capt. Katsuchi Wakazawa, of the Japanese army, who was taken prisoner by the Germans on the Russian front and later released, has recently said that Germany is starving but Austria is fairly well fed. The Austrian soldiers are praying for peace, he stated.

Captain Wakazawa said that despite the enemy status of his country he was merely treated as an observer in Germany, and was told by German Red Cross women that he could have anything he wanted in the way of food.

His request for meat and coffee, however, brought only an apple, about 150 grams of bread and a cup of the desired beverage. "It was the best they could get," he stated.

AUSTRALIAN BATTLEPLANE IS NAMED AFTER WOMAN

MELBOURNE, Australia, December 17—(Associated Press)—At least one of the Australian battleplanes being provided for the British air service in this year, chiefly by the rural districts of Commonwealth, will go into action bearing the name of a woman, Miss Elizabeth Campbell of Inverell station (ranch), New South Wales, recently gave the defense department \$13,500 for the purchase of a battleplane for the British government. Arrangements were subsequently made through the Australian High Commissioner in London that the battleplane shall bear the inscription, "Elizabeth Campbell of Inverell Station." Miss Campbell was thanked by the defense department for her gift.

CORBING OF ALIEN ENEMY EFFORTS IS TOLD BY GREGORY

Attorney General Reports That Department Is Armed With Powerful Weapons

ONLY GOLD FIGURES ARE USED TO SHOW RESULTS

Prosecution of I. W. W. Leaders Found Efficient in Checking Other Trouble

WASHINGTON, December 17—(Associated Press)—Only the gold figures showing the results of the work of the department of justice in coping with German plotters in this country are given in Attorney General Gregory's annual report. None of the details of the operations of the secret service of that department, touching almost every condition from the romantic to the sordid are disclosed. Most of those must necessarily remain untold until the end of the war, when a set of volumes rivaling the most exciting tales of fiction might be written from them.

The attorney general's report merely tells the story of results in the figures of prison sentences which the agents of German intrigue now are serving in federal penitentiaries.

In dealing with the enemies within, the department has found that the espionage law, the trading with the enemy act, and the prosecution of seditious conspiracy have been fruitful of results.

"The government's hands have been materially strengthened so that it now has power to deal with disturbing malcontents," says the attorney general's report.

I. W. W. Prosecutions

"The prosecution of William D. Haywood and other leaders of the so-called Industrial Workers of the World, to the number of more than 150 in the northern district of Illinois is an instance of how these laws may be employed for the public protection in this time of stress. The effect of these prosecutions is already having a far reaching and highly beneficial influence towards the maintenance of order and obedience to law throughout the country."

After dealing with the war activities of the department the attorney general passes on to recommendations concerning the civil laws of the Nation.

Attorney General Gregory renews at the outset his recommendations that the commodities clause of the interstate commerce law be amended to meet supreme court decisions, to divorce transportation from production. While the legislation Mr. Gregory recommends is intended particularly to cover the coal roads, it would also prohibit to the last degree a railway from manufacturing or owning anything it transports in interstate commerce.

For Aged Judges

Also, the attorney general renews his recommendations for a provision of law intended to benefit the federal courts. It would provide that when a federal judge reaches the age of 70 years and refuses to avail himself of the retirement already provided by law, the President shall be authorized to appoint another judge for the same district to take precedence over the older one.

Under existing law there is no legal penalty for sending threatening letters through the mails unless to accomplish extortion or as part of a means to defraud. Mr. Gregory recommends legislation to make it a crime. The statute of limitations for criminal prosecution in bankruptcy cases, now one year, the attorney general regards as having defeated justice in some cases and he recommends that it be extended to three years.

Anti-Trust Legislation

In the enforcement of the anti-trust laws the attorney general says the department has been confronted by peculiar conditions brought about by the war. There are two broad limitations on the power of the department.

Increases of price, brought about not by agreement, conspiracy or monopoly, but by the common selfish impulse of traders to take advantage of the extraordinary conditions of the times, are not punishable under the anti-trust laws, the report says, no matter how completely lacking they may be of economic justification or how extortionate.

Sales of commodities by retailers to consumers generally fall outside of interstate commerce and therefore are not within the purview of the federal laws.

Within such limitations, Attorney General Gregory says the department of justice has utilized its full energy.

Several of the great anti-trust cases, previously begun, notably the International Harvester and Steel suits are still in the supreme court.

The attorney general devotes much of his report to informing congress of the steps he has taken to carry out the measures against enemy allies. They include cooperation of federal marshals and troops with local authorities, and go into the legal procedure in great detail.

WOMAN GETS ANGRY

LONDON, November 31—(Associated Press)—A difference of opinion arose recently between a woman inspector and a policeman stationed at a munition work. In her anger, the policeman, a strong girl, caught up the inspector and threw her into a nearby stream. The inspector was rescued unhurt and the policeman was immediately escorted to headquarters.

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ITALIANS FALL BACK UPON NEW POSITIONS IN PERFECT ORDER

Austro-Germans Score Advance By Sheer Force of Numbers and At Immense Cost and Reach Caprille Hill

ALL OTHER SECTORS ARE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED

Italians Mass Forces and Batteries In New Positions In Advance and Are Prepared To Continue Desperate Stand

NEW YORK, December 17—(Associated Press)—Before the intensity of the Austro-German attack one sector of the Italian front was forced to give way slightly yesterday and to fall back upon new and strong positions that had been prepared already in preparation for this contingency. On all other sectors the Italian-Allied lines hold strong and have beaten back all attacks.

TAKE NEW POSITION

At great cost the Austro-German forces yesterday succeeded in pushing their advance as far forward as Caprille hill. This eminence dominates the San Lorenzo Valley and it is here that the Italian forces have taken up their new positions. Here they have massed their forces and placed batteries of big guns in position in readiness for another stand. Despatches said that Italian military authorities expressed the opinion that here at least the Italians would be able to successfully check renewed efforts to advance upon Venice. The San Lorenzo Valley leads to the Venetian plains.

There was no abatement yesterday of the intense conflict that has raged for days on the Italian front. Again the Brenta and the Piave sectors were the chief salients for the enemy. Attacks in force were continued on those fronts and the use of heavily massed forces continued.

RETREAT SLOW

By sheer force of numbers the Italians were slowly thrown back toward Caprille Hill. Slowly and in good order, fighting every inch of the way and contending every step of progress with the enemy hordes they retired. Long grey lines melted away before the leaden hail thrown against the oncoming Austro-Germans, but as often as the leaders fell they were replaced by new men, pressing ever forward. Time after time the Italians hurled their enemy back but the sea of armed humanity swept ever against them. In this way making thousands of lives pay for the advance, the defenders slowly gave ground until they reached their new positions. Here they checked the enemy successfully and here are massed forces, guns and munitions which dominate the position of the Teutons.

In no other sectors of the Italian front did the Austro-Germans succeed in making material advances.

QUIET ON WEST

On the Western front the day was without importance. No great movements were launched by any of the contenders on any of the fronts either in France or Belgium but artillery engagements continued.

BIG FISH PULLS WOMAN FROM CLIFF TO DEATH

SAN FRANCISCO, December 17—(Associated Press)—Killed by a fish was the fate of Mrs. Anna Connors, a pleasure seeker yesterday.

Mrs. Connors was fishing with several others yesterday when a large fish suddenly struck her hook. The line was wrapped about her hand and she was pulled over the cliff to her death.